United Nations A/C.6/67/L.16

General Assembly

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7 November 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 84
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Draft resolution

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to an international order based on the rule of law, which is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States,

Recalling its resolutions 64/117 of 16 December 2009, 65/33 of 6 December 2010 and 66/103 of 9 December 2011,

Taking into account the comments and observations of Governments and observers and the discussions held in the Sixth Committee at the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,[1]

Recognizing the diversity of views expressed by States and the need for further consideration towards a better understanding of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction,

Reiterating its commitment to fighting impunity, and noting the views expressed by States that the legitimacy and credibility of the use of universal jurisdiction are best ensured by its responsible and judicious application consistent with international law,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Sixth Committee*, 12th, 13th and 25th meetings (A/C.6/64/SR.12, 13 and 25), and corrigendum; ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Sixth Committee*, 10th to 12th, 27th and 28th meetings (A/C.6/65/SR.10-12, 27 and 28), and corrigendum; and ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Sixth Committee*, 12th, 13th, 17th and 29th meetings (A/C.6/66/SR.12, 13, 17 and 29), and corrigendum; ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Sixth Committee*, 12th, 13th, 24th and 25th meetings (A/C.6/67/SR.12, 13, 24 and 25), and corrigendum.

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1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General prepared on the basis of comments and observations of Governments and relevant observers;[2]

2. *Decides* that the Sixth Committee shall continue its consideration of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, without prejudice to the consideration of this topic and related issues in other forums of the United Nations, and for this purpose decides to establish, at its sixty-eighth session, a working group of the Sixth Committee to continue to undertake a thorough discussion of the scope and application of universal jurisdiction;[3]

3. *Invites* Member States and relevant observers, as appropriate, to submit, before 30 April 2013, information and observations on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules and judicial practice, and requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, a report based on such information and observations;

4. *Decides* that the Working Group shall be open to all Member States and that relevant observers to the General Assembly will be invited to participate in the work of the Working Group;

5. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction".

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[2] A/67/116; see also A/66/93 and Add.1 and A/65/181.

[3] The Working Group will take into account the informal working paper of the Working Group at the sixty-sixth session (A/C.6/66/WG.3/1).

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General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 76
Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

Draft resolution

Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/281 of 29 March 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that the Secretary-General make available to the United Nations membership a comprehensive report on the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations,[1]

Recalling also that the Secretary-General, on 24 March 2005, transmitted to the President of the General Assembly a report of his Adviser concerning sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel,[2]

Recalling further its resolution 59/300 of 22 June 2005, in which it endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that a group of legal experts be established to provide advice on the best way to proceed so as to ensure that the original intent of the Charter of the United Nations can be achieved, namely that United Nations staff and experts on mission would never be effectively exempt from the consequences of criminal acts committed at their duty station, nor unjustly penalized, without due process,[3]

Recognizing the valuable contribution of United Nations officials and experts on mission towards the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter,

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1), part one, chap. III, sect. D, para. 56.
[2] See A/59/710.
[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1), part two, chap. II, sect. N, para. 40 (a).

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Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international law,

Reaffirming also that the present resolution is without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of United Nations officials and experts on mission and the United Nations under international law,

Reaffirming further the obligation of United Nations officials and experts on mission to respect the national laws of the host State, as well as the right of the host State to exercise, where applicable, its criminal jurisdiction, in accordance with the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing operations of United Nations missions,

Deeply concerned by reports of criminal conduct, and conscious that such conduct, if not investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted, would create the negative impression that United Nations officials and experts on mission operate with impunity,

Reaffirming the need to ensure that all United Nations officials and experts on mission function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations,

Emphasizing that crimes committed by such persons are unacceptable and have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of the mandate of the United Nations, in particular with respect to the relations between the United Nations and the local population in the host country,

Conscious of the importance of protecting the rights of victims of criminal conduct, as well as of ensuring adequate protection for witnesses, and recalling the adoption of its resolution 62/214 of 21 December 2007 on the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel,

Emphasizing the need to enhance international cooperation to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolution 61/29 of 4 December 2006, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Having considered at its previous sessions the report of the Group of Legal Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to its resolution 59/300[4] and the reports of the Ad Hoc Committee,[5] as well as the note by the Secretariat[6] and the reports of the Secretary-General[7] on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission,

Recalling its resolutions 62/63 of 6 December 2007, 63/119 of 11 December 2008, 64/110 of 16 December 2009, 65/20 of 6 December 2010 and 66/93 of 9 December 2011,

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[4] See A/60/980.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/62/54); and ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 54* (A/63/54).

[6] A/62/329.

[7] A/63/260 and Add.1, A/64/183 and Add.1, A/65/185 and A/66/174 and Add.1.

Recalling also its decision that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects, taking into account the views of Member States and the information contained in the note by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its sixty-seventh session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee,

Convinced of the continuing need for the United Nations and its Member States to urgently take strong and effective steps to ensure the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission in the interest of justice,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Strongly urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that crimes by United Nations officials and experts on mission do not go unpunished and that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of such persons and the United Nations under international law, and in accordance with international human rights standards, including due process;

3. *Strongly urges* all States to consider establishing, to the extent that they have not yet done so, jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct as defined in the law of the State establishing jurisdiction also constitutes a crime under the laws of the host State, and, further, urges States and appropriate international organizations to provide technical and other appropriate assistance in developing such legal measures to States requesting such support;

4. *Encourages* all States to cooperate with each other and with the United Nations in the exchange of information and in facilitating the conduct of investigations and, as appropriate, the prosecution of United Nations officials and experts on mission who are alleged to have committed crimes of a serious nature, in accordance with their domestic law and applicable United Nations rules and regulations, fully respecting due process rights, as well as to consider strengthening the capacities of their national authorities to investigate and prosecute such crimes;

5. *Also encourages* all States:

(a) To afford each other assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings in respect of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal, in accordance with their domestic law or any treaties or other arrangements on extradition and mutual legal assistance that may exist between them;

(b) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of facilitating the possible use of information and material obtained from the United Nations for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated in their territory for the prosecution of crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, bearing in mind due process considerations;

[8] A/67/213.

(c) In accordance with their domestic law, to provide effective protection for victims of, witnesses to and others who provide information in relation to crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission and to facilitate access of victims to victim assistance programmes, without prejudice to the rights of the alleged offender, including those relating to due process;

(d) In accordance with their domestic law, to explore ways and means of responding adequately to requests by host States for support and assistance in order to enhance their capacity to conduct effective investigations in respect of crimes of a serious nature alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to ensure that requests to Member States seeking personnel to serve as experts on mission make States aware of the expectation that persons who serve in that capacity should meet high standards in their conduct and behaviour and be aware that certain conduct may amount to a crime for which they may be held accountable;

7. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to take such other practical measures as are within his authority to strengthen existing training on United Nations standards of conduct, including through predeployment and in-mission induction training for United Nations officials and experts on mission;

8. *Decides* that, bearing in mind its resolutions 62/63 and 63/119, the consideration of the report of the Group of Legal Experts, in particular its legal aspects,[4] taking into account the views of Member States and also noting the inputs by the Secretariat, shall be continued during its seventieth session in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring credible allegations that reveal that a crime may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission to the attention of the States against whose nationals such allegations are made and to request from those States an indication of the status of their efforts to investigate and, as appropriate, prosecute crimes of a serious nature, as well as the types of appropriate assistance that States may wish to receive from the Secretariat for the purposes of such investigations and prosecutions;

10. *Urges* States to provide to the Secretary-General at the appropriate time information on their handling of the credible allegations brought to their attention by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 9 above;

11. *Requests* the United Nations, when its investigations into allegations suggest that crimes of a serious nature may have been committed by United Nations officials or experts on mission, to consider any appropriate measures that may facilitate the possible use of information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States, bearing in mind due process considerations;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations, when allegations against United Nations officials or experts on mission are determined by a United Nations administrative investigation to be unfounded, to take appropriate measures, in the interests of the Organization, to restore the credibility and the reputation of such officials and experts on mission;

13. *Urges* the United Nations to continue cooperating with States exercising jurisdiction in order to provide them, within the framework of the relevant rules of international law and agreements governing activities of the United Nations, with information and material for purposes of criminal proceedings initiated by States;

14. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations, in accordance with the applicable rules of the Organization, should take no action that would retaliate against or intimidate United Nations officials and experts on mission who report allegations concerning crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the information provided by Governments in response to its resolutions 62/63, 63/119, 64/110, 65/20 and 66/93, and urges Governments to continue taking the measures necessary for the implementation of those resolutions, including their provisions addressing the establishment of jurisdiction over crimes, particularly those of a serious nature, as known in their existing domestic criminal laws, committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, as well as cooperation among States, and to provide specific details thereon, in particular with respect to paragraph 3 of the present resolution, in the information provided to the Secretary-General;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular with respect to paragraphs 3, 5, 8 and 9 above, as well as any practical problems in its implementation, on the basis of information received from Governments and the Secretariat;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report information on the number and types of credible allegations and any actions taken by the United Nations and its Member States regarding crimes of a serious nature committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission, including information on efforts made to ensure the completeness of incident reporting;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission".

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Sixty-seventh session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 116
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Under agenda item 116, "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, each Main Committee shall adopt a provisional programme of work for the next session. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Sixth Committee has prepared a provisional programme of work for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Draft decision

Provisional programme of work of the Sixth Committee for the sixty-eighth session

The Sixth Committee decides to adopt the following provisional programme of work for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as proposed by the Bureau:

Provisional programme of work[1]

7 October	Organization of work of the Sixth Committee
7 and 8 October	Measures to eliminate international terrorism
9 and 10 October	The rule of law at the national and international levels
11 October	Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
14 October	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its forty-sixth session

[1] Indicating provisional dates in 2013 for debates under the respective items.

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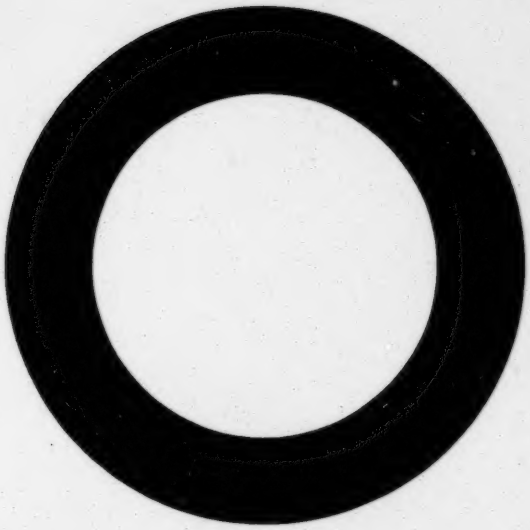
16 October	Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission
	Requests for observer status
	United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
17 and 18 October	The scope and application of universal jurisdiction
21 October	Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts
	Diplomatic protection
22 October	Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm
	The law of transboundary aquifers
28 October-6 November	Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-third[2] and sixty-fifth sessions
15 November	Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
	Programme planning
	Election of the officers of the Main Committees
10, 14, 16, 18, 22 and 25 October and 6 November	Reserved

[2] Concerning the chapter on reservations to treaties.



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Sixty-seventh session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 165
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus: draft resolution

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[1]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[2] the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[3] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recalling also that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 34 of its report;[1]

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which is an issue of great importance, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, requests the host country to continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/67/26).
[2] Resolution 22 A (I).
[3] See resolution 169 (II).

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arise and to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions, and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities and if violations occur to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

3. *Notes* the problems experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles,[4] and notes that the Committee shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

4. *Requests* the host country to consider removing the remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the long-standing positions of affected States, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

5. *Notes* the concerns expressed by some delegations concerning the denial and delay of entry visas to representatives of Member States;

6. *Also notes* that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States in a timely manner, pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[3] to travel to New York on United Nations business and that the Committee anticipates that the host country will continue to enhance efforts, including visa issuance, to facilitate the participation of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings, as appropriate;

7. *Further notes* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States since the time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings;

8. *Notes with concern* the difficulties that continue to be experienced by some Permanent Missions to the United Nations in obtaining suitable banking services, and welcomes the continued efforts of the host country to facilitate the opening of bank accounts for those Permanent Missions;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

10. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held

[4] A/AC.154/355, annex.

while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

12. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI);

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".